

porcupine *Atherurus macrourus* (Linnaeus 1758)] present in the National Zoological Collection of the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta, we came across an albino specimen of the crestless Himalayan porcupine *Hystrix brachyura* collected from Manipur, India. The literature has no record of albinism in *Hystrix brachyura* in India.

All measurements, external and cranial, are in millimetres.

Material examined: INDIA: Manipur: Imphal district: 1 ♀ subadult: 28 km north of Imphal on Dimapur Road, 29.xi.1945, coll. M.L. Roonwal. Rolled skin, Regn No. 11349, Mammal and Osteology Section, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta.

Measurements: Female. Subadult. External: head and body 555.0, tail 120.0, hindfoot 85.0, ear 37.0, Cranial: occipitonasal 119.0, nasal 66.2, palatal length 55.0, length of

bulia 17.2, zygomatic width 64.3, diastemma 32.0, length of mandible 75.5.

Diagnostic Character: Absence of crest of bristles on the crown, tail not brush-like. The specimen is albino i.e. without any pigmentation.

Distribution: INDIA: Sikkim, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur (Roonwal 1950). Nepal, Bangladesh, central and southern China, Myanmar, Thailand, Indochina, Malaya, Sumatra, Borneo, Singapore, Penang and Hainan Is. (Corbet and Hill 1992, Wilson and Reeder 1993).

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4. FIRST RECORD OF GANGETIC RIVER DOLPHIN, *PLATANISTA GANGETICA*. AT POBITORA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, ASSAM

The Gangetic river dolphin, *Platanista gangetica*, locally known as *sihu*, is a native of the Ganga and Brahmaputra river systems. On August 8, 1998, while on inspection duty, I sighted a juvenile Gangetic dolphin at Garanga beel on the southwest boundary of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. This rare and endangered animal was observed plunging up and down in the water for about an hour, maneuvering in an area of around 100 sq. m. The dolphin was grey and approximately 90-100 cm long.

The dolphin was sighted about 2-3 km away from River Brahmaputra and hardly 220 m from River Kolong, a tributary of Brahmaputra. During the sighting period, the Sanctuary was submerged

in flood waters, up to 3.5-9.5 m from normal ground level. The flood water remains in the Sanctuary for almost three months i.e. from June to August.

The dolphin was last sighted further downstream on August 17, 1998. After observing the single animal for almost 10 days, it was concluded that the Gangetic dolphin occasionally migrates to high flood areas during the monsoon.

This is the first record of dolphin in the beels of Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary.

April 28, 1999 MRIGEN BARUA
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